

Sylvia
Meggie & Bill

5/10/67

Dear Mr. Hayden,

With scholarship and perception that equals your judgement in printing that Kaplan pornography, you say, "Obviously, you feel that your book has been badly dealt with." "Badly" is hardly the word, but would you rather go to Atlantic City ~~by~~ or by bus?

The point, as ever a scholar lost in the clouds of fine language might have been expected to understand, is not that my book was badly dealt with but that the subject "was badly dealt with", to use your euphemism and evasion.

Granted that you "do not feel even remotely the way" I "do about Mr. Kaplan's piece", may I ask what basis, scholarly or otherwise, you have for having any valid, any legitimate "feeling" about so enormous a subject? Aside from any personal respect and liking you may have for Mr. Kaplan, how dared you, if you maintain any shred of a pretense of scholarship and/or honesty print such a disreputable, such^a distorted and wretched a thing as Kaplan gave you without making you own check, and that among those who know something about the subject?

Whether Kaplan's intellectual crookedness comes from ignorance and an intense longing that what did happen didn't is not material. His motive may be as sincere as that of the men who ran the gas chambers. Sincerity here is immaterial.

No wonder you fairies and needles boys have so little following among ordinary people. They have a proper guy understand that you are not to be trusted with the realities of life.

At this point what you do or do not do with my letter is of no interest to me. Do what you will. And you can take your "hearing" and stick it up Kaplan's ass that he calls a mouth. Moderate language indeed! The dagger cuts less if pressed with a smile, I presume. You call his corruption "moderate" because it is couched in polite language, is that it?

I take the time from constructive purposes, for which I do not have enough time, not to ask anything of you, for I could not care less, but in a perhaps vain hope that you might think about the evil you have wrought and about why the intellectuals, who you symbolize, were so totally wanting when our society needed you most and why you persist in your abdication.

Shame on you all!

Disgustedly,

Harold Weisberg